WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A home entertainment network, comprising:

at least one network path;

at least a first component having a data bus of a first bus width;

at least a second component having a data bus of a second bus width, the second bus width being different from the first bus width; and

respective network interfaces connecting each component to the network path.

2. The network of Claim 1, wherein each network interface includes at least one data stream port.

3. The network of Claim 2, wherein each network interface includes at least one host bus interface communicating with a host bus of the respective component.

4. The network of Claim 3, wherein each network interface includes at least one network communication port communicating with a common network backbone.

5. The network of Claim 4, wherein each network interface includes at least one switch selectively connecting the network communication port to either the host bus interface or the at least one data stream port.

6. The network of Claim 3, wherein the host bus interface is configured to have a bus width equal to the bus width of the component with which it is associated.

7. The network of Claim 6, wherein the component configures the host bus interface.

8. The network of Claim 5, wherein each network interface includes at least one packetizing/depacketizing component between the switch and the network communication port.

9. The network of Claim 8, wherein each network interface includes at least one internal bus establishing at least a portion of a communication path between the host bus interface and the network communication port, whereby the host bus interface can communicate data directly to the network communication port, bypassing the packetizing/depacketizing component.

10. First and second interfaces for communicating data in a home network having at least a server, a first component having a first host bus having a first bus width, and a second component having a second host bus having a second bus width, comprising:

the first interface including a host bus interface configured for communicating data with the first host bus and having the first bus width, the first interface also having

at least one data port, a network port connectable to the network, and a switch selectively connecting the network port to either the host bus interface or data port; and

the second interface including a host bus interface configured for communicating data with the second host bus and having the second bus width, the second interface also having at least one data port, a network port connectable to the network, and a switch selectively connecting the network port to either the host bus interface or data port, the interfaces being identical in configuration and operation except for the configuration of the respective host bus interfaces.

11. The interfaces of Claim 10, wherein the host bus interface of each interface is configurable to have a bus width equal to the bus width of the component with which it is associated.

12. The interfaces of Claim 11, wherein the components configure the host bus interface of their respective interfaces.

13. The interfaces of Claim 10, wherein each interface includes at least one packetizing/depacketizing component between the switch and the network port.

14. The interfaces of Claim 13, wherein each interface includes at least one internal bus establishing at least a portion of a communication path between the host bus interface and

the network port, whereby the host bus interface can communicate data directly to the network port, bypassing the packetizing/depacketizing component.

15. A home entertainment system, comprising:

at least a first component having a first host bus with a first bus width and communicating with a network using a first universal network interface; and

at least a second component having a second host bus with a second bus width and communicating with a network using a second universal network interface, each universal network interface having a respective host bus interface configurable for communicating with a component host bus of the respective component, the universal network interfaces being identical to each other at least prior to configuration of the respective host bus interfaces.

16. The system of Claim 15, wherein each component configures the bus width of the host bus interface of the respective universal network interface.

17. The system of Claim 15, wherein each universal network interface includes at least one data stream port.

18. The system of Claim 17, wherein each universal network interface includes at least one network communication port communicating with a common network backbone.

19. The system of Claim 18, wherein each universal network interface includes at least one switch selectively connecting the network communication port to either the host bus interface or the at least one data stream port.

20. The system of Claim 19, wherein each universal network interface includes at least one packetizing/depacketizing component between the switch and the network communication port.

21. The system of Claim 20, wherein each universal network interface includes at least one internal bus establishing at least a portion of a communication path between the host bus interface and the network communication port, whereby the host bus interface can communicate data directly to the network communication port, bypassing the packetizing/depacketizing component.

22. A home entertainment system, comprising:

at least a first component having a first host bus with a first bus width and communicating with a network;

first universal network interface means for interconnecting the first component with the network;

at least a second component having a second host bus with a second bus width and communicating with the network; and

second universal network interface means for interconnecting the second component with the network.

23. The system of Claim 22, wherein each means for interconnecting is established by a universal network interface having a respective host bus interface configurable for communicating with a component host bus of the respective component, the universal network interfaces being identical to each other at least prior to configuration of the respective host bus interfaces.

24. The system of Claim 23, wherein each component configures the bus width of the host bus interface of the respective universal network interface.

25. The system of Claim 24, wherein each universal network interface includes at least one data stream port.

26. The system of Claim 25, wherein each universal network interface includes at least one network communication port communicating with a common network backbone.

27. The system of Claim 26, wherein each universal network interface includes at least one switch selectively connecting the network communication port to either the host bus interface or the at least one data stream port.

28. The system of Claim 27, wherein each universal network interface includes at least one packetizing/depacketizing component between the switch and the network communication port.

29. The system of Claim 28, wherein each universal network interface includes at least one internal bus establishing at least a portion of a communication path between the host bus interface and the network communication port, whereby the host bus interface can communicate data directly to the network communication port, bypassing the packetizing/depacketizing component.

30. The network of Claim 1, further comprising a server having a third network interface communicating with the network, wherein the first component is a TV and the second component is an audio client component.

31. The interfaces of Claim 10, wherein the first component is a TV and the second component is an audio client component.

32. The system of Claim 15, further comprising a server having a third network interface communicating with the network, wherein the first component is a TV and the second component is an audio client component.

33. The system of Claim 22, further comprising a server having a third network interface communicating with the network, wherein the first component is a TV and the second component is an audio client component.